

National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture
www.fireplan.gov



FY 2003 Programs in Arizona

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

USDA / DOI	Actual 2002	**Estimated 2003
Preparedness	\$46,472	\$49,652
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	17,507	37,250
Rehabilitation	15,579	5,874
Fire Facilities	0	0
Research and Development	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0
Forest Health Management	12	1,508
State Fire Assistance	1,315	1,519
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	821	929
Economic Action Program	46	136
TOTAL	81,751	96,868

* Suppression costs for Arizona totaled \$79.8 million in 2002.

** Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

Program Highlights

- Favorable weather conditions this past fall and winter allowed for significant accomplishments in hazardous fuels reduction through prescribed burning within wildland urban interface areas.
- Representatives of the Prescott National Forest worked in close collaboration with local individuals and agencies to develop the Prescott Area Wildfire Commission. This commission will create strategies, and proposals to address fire potential for the community prior to the upcoming fire season.
- An interagency National Fire Plan Operation and Reporting System training session was held last fall with approximately 50 federal agency employees being trained on the use of the database.
- Bureau of Land Management crews recently completed a 16-acre hazardous fuels reduction project in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, protecting the historic Boquillas Ranch from frequent wildfires that sweep the area. Wood chips generated by the project are being used to cover archaeological sites, protecting them from would-be relic hunters. Firewood generated by the project was made available for use in Native American sweat lodges.
- On the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management crews mowed 45- to 65- foot swaths in agricultural fields adjacent to urban interface areas, creating firebreaks to protect nearby homes. The firebreaks will allow firefighters greater access in case of a wildfire event and will allow some prescribed burning in the area.
- The Arizona Wildfire Academy, a cooperative project funded by the National Fire Plan and sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Arizona Emergency Management Agency and other community groups, was inaugurated in March. The week-long academy of field and classroom instruction provided training for more than 400 firefighters from across the nation.
- The Bureau of Land Management in Yuma, AZ, is experimenting with different uses for biomass generated by hazardous fuels reduction treatments. Salt cedar cleared from an 80-acre wildland urban interface area is being

chipped and shipped to a 49-megawatt wood-burning biomass power plant in Mecca, CA. The pilot project is expected to generate nearly 400 tons of material from hazardous fuels treatments.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ## USDA Forest Service plans to maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 levels.
 - ## Department of the Interior plans to maintain a firefighting workforce of 562 firefighting personnel, 61 engines, 6 helicopters, 8 water/foam tenders, 6 dozers, 4 boats, and 6 airtankers, 6 tractor plows, and one other aircraft.
- Facilities
 - ## Department of the Interior plans to continue funding for the Truxton Canyon storage building in the amount of \$977,000.

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation consists of 1) immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and 2) long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants. Projects to be completed in FY 2003 include those FY 2001 and FY 2002 projects needing completion, and those fires from FY 2002 that need rehabilitation work.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- USDA Forest Service and DOI plan to treat 218,000 acres for hazardous fuels; 75,000 are in the wildland urban interface areas in FY 2003.
- USDA Forest Service estimates \$37 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.
- Forest Health Management funding is estimated at \$1.5 million.

Community Assistance

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding – \$512,000
 - ##40 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$1.5 million
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Requested funding – \$417,000
- Economic Action Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$136,000

Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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